



## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

### MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2017

10:00 AM

1700 West Washington Street, Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Governor's Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment (Council) was convened on September 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Council.

#### Members Present

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Ducey (Chair)       | Kristine Jacober          |
| Kathryn Pidgeon (Co-Chair) | Zora Manjencich           |
| Roy Dawson                 | Warren Stewart            |
| Janet Garcia               | Christine Arians          |
| Vicki Mayo                 | Mark Upton                |
| James Molina               | Julie O'Dell (via phone)  |
| Paul Mulligan              | George Khalaf (via phone) |
| Darlene Newsom             |                           |

#### Members Absent

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Luke Barnett    | Terry Crist          |
| Jay Cory        | Jeffery Taylor       |
| Andrea Stewart  | Dr. Lorrie Henderson |
| Leslie Reprogle | Richard Yarbough     |

#### Staff Present

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Samuel Burba    | Lindsay Cotton |
| John Raeder     | Kelsey Teske   |
| Terrilyn Miller |                |

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Kathryn Pidgeon called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM with 15 members present and 8 members absent.

#### 2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Mrs. Angela Ducey welcomed the Council members and stated that she had promoted CarePortal at every Mother's Day mass at Saint Patrick's Church.

### **3. INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Each member of the Council and staff introduced themselves.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Pidgeon requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2017 Council meeting. Mrs. Vicki Mayo moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Ms. Zora Manjencich seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

### **5. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY TRANSITION**

Mr. Samuel Burba thanked Council members for their service and dedication, furthermore stating that the Governor's Office is committed to supporting their continued work. Mr. Burba highlighted two upcoming events hosted by the office: Lighting Arizona Purple and Red Ribbon's kick-off event, ADDICTION: The Elephant in the Room. Lighting Arizona Purple will take place on October 2, 2017, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. During the event, Arizona will light the Capitol dome purple to encourage awareness of domestic violence. ADDICTION: The Elephant in the Room will be held on October 23, 2017, from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM, to promote prevention efforts addressing substance abuse in Arizona. Scheduled prior the Red Ribbon kick-off will be public trainings led by community specialists. Mr. Burba encouraged Council members to contact him or Mrs. Terrilyn Miller if they had any questions.

### **6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT – FAITH IN ACTION**

Mrs. Miller shared with Council members her most recent efforts to promote faith collaboration in the community. She highlighted three different events that she presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute, the 2017 Child Abuse Prevention Conference, and the First Things First Early Childhood Summit 2017. Mrs. Miller said she was able to interact with individuals that were interested in collaborating with the faith community and the work of the Council. Mrs. Miller shared that at the First Things First Summit she presented along with CarePortal, Safe Families for Children, and AZ 1.27 and described the collaboration between these organizations as inspiring.

### **BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE**

Mrs. Ducey introduced Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement Dr. David Sanders of Casey Family Programs. Dr. David Sanders joined Casey Family Programs in July 2006. He oversees the foundation's work with child welfare systems to improve practice, with an emphasis on ensuring safe and permanent families for children. He also oversees the foundation's public policy work. Prior to joining Casey Family Programs, he directed all operations for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. As one of twelve commissioners appointed by the President and Congress, Dr. Sanders served on the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (CECANF) as Appointee for Chairperson. Mrs. Ducey stated that Dr. Sanders received the Congressional Angels in Adoption Award in 2003 and the Peter W. Forsythe Award for Leadership in Public Child Welfare in 2007. Mrs. Ducey added that Dr. Sanders spoke at a conference she attended in Milwaukee hosted by First Lady Tonette Walker for First Spouses on Trauma Informed Care that was sponsored by Casey Foundation.

Dr. Sanders opened by saying that he was impressed with both the Arizona Angel Initiative and CarePortal. He shared that since 2016 there has been a drop of 2,000 children in foster care. There has been a decrease in the rate of children in care and those entering care, with the number of exits out of foster care greater than the entries into foster care. He said that Arizona does well in permanency rates and is higher than the national average. Dr. Sanders stated that there is often little clarity about success in the foster care system, and posed a

question as to how we define the term “safety”. Some measurable factors of success were identified as reoccurrence of maltreatment, incidence of maltreatment, exits to permanency, and foster care exits versus entries. Dr. Sanders listed several challenges to agencies, two being the number of children placed outside their home for two years or longer and calls to the Department of Child Safety (DCS) that are not investigated. The national rate shows that 40 percent of these calls do not have follow-up. He revealed that infants are a greater risk of harm and suggested that community organizations have a greater responsibility to respond to these cases. Nurse-family partnerships are proven to work, and Mr. Sanders hopes that we will utilize technology and data to identify who is at risk. For those Arizona children in out-of-home care for two years or longer, Dr. Sanders recommended that the state turn to the faith-based community for support.

Mrs. Ducey asked Mrs. Janet Garcia what the state's approach regarding infant calls. Mrs. Garcia stated that they are redesigning a tool to screen children at risk.

Mr. Warren Stewart shared that he is focused on recruiting churches to aid the foster care community, and inquired what additional approaches he could take. Dr. Sanders responded that it would be best to target those efforts to young children at risk.

Mrs. Mayo asked Mrs. Garcia whether or not there has been progress among state agencies to help families before abuse/neglect situations occur. Mrs. Garcia was not aware of any specific motions to address those issues.

Mr. Roy Dawson shared that he is focused on advocacy for African American children and is looking how Arizona can decrease this population's existence in the foster care system. Dr. Sanders stated that the reduction in the foster care system has been greatest among African Americans and encouraged the Council to view these concerns as community issues.

## **7. RECOVERY FOR NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS) BABIES**

Mrs. Pidgeon introduced Ms. Tara Sundem, co-founder of Hushabye Nursery, Inc.

Ms. Sundem attended Mankato University in Minnesota where she received her Bachelor of Science. Following graduation, Ms. Sundem moved to Mesa, Arizona. As a registered nurse, she worked for seven years at Banner Desert Medical Center in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Mrs. Ducey added that in 2002, Ms. Sundem graduated from Arizona State University with a Master of Science and obtained her Neonatal Nurse Practitioner certification.

Ms. Sundem began with the personal testimony of a woman, “Melissa,” who was a heroin addict, became pregnant, and ultimately went on medically-assisted treatment (MAT) to protect her baby. Ms. Sundem described that many people in similar situations are not aware of the resources available to them in the community. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) occurs when babies are no longer being exposed to drugs taken by the mother during pregnancy. The newborn experiences opioid withdrawal within 25 minutes of birth. Ms. Sundem demonstrated to the Council how to hold NAS babies and described what the baby is experiencing. Babies with NAS are at high risk for medical issues. Ms. Sundem shared that Hushabye Nursery was created to provide prenatal education for mothers, prepare a home-like environment for healing, and develop relationships with community organizations. The goal is to reunite mothers with their babies and provide specialized care outside the intensive care unit, which can be overstimulating to newborns. Families are connected with

community programs upon discharge, and Hushabye Nursery teaches families that the Department of Child Safety (DCS) is there to help. Hushabye Nursery is exploring future funding opportunities.

Mrs. Pidgeon inquired whether the program also targets foster parents. Ms. Sundem replied that Hushabye Nursery is working to educate caregivers who have received babies suffering from NAS.

Mrs. Ducey talked about the possibility of implementing these nurseries in Arizona hospitals, and discussed future partnerships with the Angel Initiative and CarePortal. She also inquired if Hushabye Nursery would require additional NAS staff. Ms. Sundem responded that she was advised not to approach hospitals, but that they are open to partnerships. The plan is to develop one-to-one care for NAS babies.

Mrs. Mayo asked if Hushabye Nursery did not have its own facility. Ms. Sundem responded that they are not housed at a specific location. Mrs. Mayo also inquired whether the statistics listed in the presentation were specific to Arizona. Ms. Sundem replied that they were.

## **8. FOSTERED INITIATIVE**

Mrs. Ducey introduced Ms. Michelle Francois Traiman, the senior director of FosterEd, and Molly Dunn, director of FosterEd. Mrs. Traiman has more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropy sectors as well as a substantial expertise in child welfare and education. Most recently she served as the associate director of child welfare for the Stuart Foundation, where she led a major initiative to improve education outcomes for foster youth across California. Mrs. Dunn, as a direct services provider with Legal Services for Children and the San Francisco Public Defenders' Office, has advocated on behalf of hundreds of youth in special education and school discipline matters. As a clinical instructor at Stanford and Loyola law schools and as a supervisor with Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, she has mentored and guided other advocates to serve system-involved youth.

Ms. Traiman shared that education is a pathway to healing, and FosterEd is centered around this philosophy. FosterEd believes that youth deserve a voice, and that there must be education champions to help children in foster care succeed in school. HB2665 implements measures to achieve FosterEd goals by creating partnerships with community agencies, recognizing education champions, developing well-coordinate education teams, and customized education plans for children in foster care. Ms. Dunn shared that trauma is a large barrier to learning, and that it is important to have student-centered engagement. Ms. Traiman shared that 2012 FosterEd pilot was launched in Pima county, and that they are looking at future expansion in Maricopa County, specifically focusing on graduation rates and the utilization of volunteers.

Mrs. Ducey asked what approach FosterEd was taking to reach children. Ms. Dunn responded that they are partnering with Phoenix and Tucson high schools, training staff about trauma. Ms. Dunn said that the schools were receptive to the partnership. Ms. Traiman shared that their staff believes that training is important, but building long-term relationships will ultimately provide better learning opportunities for children.

## **9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION – CHILD ABUSE LICENSE PLATE FOUNDERS**

Mrs. Ducey recognized the four individuals instrumental in the creation of the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Donation Grant thanking them for their commitment to Arizona Families which has impacted and saved the lives of countless children. Mrs. Ducey said it is an honor of the Council to continue the work of the License Plate program for the betterment of all Arizona youth and families, adding that nearly ten million dollars has been granted to non-profit organizations since 1999. Mrs. Ducey took pictures each with Ms. Marilee Dal Pra, Ms. Elizabeth Reich, and Ms. Christine Scarpati. (Mr. Gene D'Adamo was not able to attend the Council meeting.)

## **10. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Outreach Sub-Committee:**

- Mr. Paul Mulligan reported the Outreach Sub-committee is preparing a presentation for the Council. Their goal is to develop an actionable roadmap to take faith leaders and faith community into the world of foster care and adoption, starting from square one.

### **Partnerships Sub-Committee:**

- Mrs. Garcia reported the Partnership Sub-committee is looking for ways to revitalize the Child Abuse Prevention License Plate Donation Grant Award Program. Mrs. Miller and Ms. Stacey Sullivan organized a breakfast reception for stakeholders on August 17, 2017, to promote awareness and opportunities for networking. Mrs. Garcia shared that the program was well received, and that the planners provided customized plates to give to each agency. During the event, presenters discussed the history of the program, and attendees were offered a tour of the Arizona Republic. The Sub-committee met last week to determine what the future approach of the program should be.

### **Prevention Sub-Committee:**

- Mrs. Mayo reported the Prevention Sub-committee is focused on the Arizona Angel Initiative. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being established with the Scottsdale Police Department, the Sub-committee hopes the Chandler Police Department will also become a partner. The number of referrals for treatment has risen due to strengthened collaboration with probation officers.
- Mrs. Ducey emphasized the importance of increasing family awareness of Angel Initiative services. She stated that she hoped to reach out to stakeholders with broad community networks for expansion.

### **African American Children and Families Sub-Committee:**

- Mr. Roy Dawson reported the African American Children and Families Sub-committee is working on conducting further data and research to learn more about the African American children in the foster care system. Mr. Burba and Mrs. Miller previously presented information on a data tool created by the Arizona Substance Abuse Epidemiology (EPI) Workgroup. Mr. Dawson stated that the Sub-committee members attended a one-day training and are learning how this tool can be best applicable to their goals and agenda. Mr. Dawson stated that capacity is a challenge, and he would like to become more aware of the resources available to the community. The Sub-committee's goal is to collect data from the public by the end of this year.

**Support Sub-Committee:**

- Mrs. Kris Jacober shared that the Support Sub-committee is focused on increasing awareness around trauma-informed care with people who interact with foster care. For the next twelve months, the Sub-committee will work to find more resources to better connect foster families, kinship members, group homes, court appointed special advocates (CASAs), foster care review board, and Department of Child Safety (DCS). Mrs. Jacober explained that there needs to be more training for these groups to more successfully interact with children in foster care.
- Mrs. Ducey recommended that the Council receive input from the licensing providers on what future training opportunities are available.
- Mrs. Miller shared that there have been grassroots efforts to promote trauma-informed care by faith community groups (i.e. Arizona Trauma Informed Faith Community and Trauma Informed Congregations) and trainings through organizations such as the Arizona Trauma Institute and ACE Consortium.

**11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no response to the call to the public.

**12. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Ducey announced the next Council meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2017. Mrs. Ducey requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dawson moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Mayo. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM with no descending votes.